

Remarks

The examiner is thanked for the Official Action dated July 21, 2003. The examiner is particularly thanked for the indication that claims 3 and 6-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This amendment and request for reconsideration is intended to be fully responsive to the above Office Action.

In the above Office Action, claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,628,394 to Keatinge.

With regard to claims 13 and 14, claims 13 and 14 have been amended to address the 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph rejection. Claims 1 and 9 have also been amended to address claim formalities.

With regard to claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 14, independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended to further distinguish the present invention from the invention disclosed by Keatinge. Keatinge is a force responsive control mechanism for a self-propelled submersible submarine vehicle, as illustrated in Keatinge figure 4. Among other things, Keatinge does not disclose a panel opening function when motion is detected by way of a motion sensor, as specifically claimed in independent claims 1 and 14. Independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended to include the limitation that the motor vehicle is a land vehicle, and to emphasize that the actuator operates to move a control panel. Since amended independent claim 1 is now in allowable condition, it is submitted that

dependent claims 2-13 are also allowable. Since independent claim 14 is in allowable condition, it is submitted that dependent claim 15 is in allowable condition.

New claims 15-20 have been added to further distinguish the present invention from the prior art. As above, new independent claim 16, among other things, specifically requires that the apparatus is a land vehicle, and that the actuation system is directed to changing the position of a panel. Dependent claims 15, and 17-20 contain additional novel features of the invention. Although support for the amended claims is found throughout the specification, the portion of the specification beginning on page 7, line 17, and continuing to page 12, line 20, is particularly applicable.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments and comments resolve all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. Should the examiner believe that additional discussion would advance the prosecution of the present application, please contact the undersigned. Applicants believe that no fee is required for this submission. However, should a fee be due, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0548.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew Stavish

Registration No. 36,286

LINIAK, BERENATO & WHITE
6550 Rock Spring Drive
Suite 240
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone: (301) 896-0600